

# The Battalion

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"Serving Texas A&M Since 1893"

Friday, October 2, 1992

## Perot rejoins presidential race

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DALLAS — Ross Perot plunged belatedly into the presidential race on Thursday, setting the stage for a three-way, month-long struggle with President Bush and Bill Clinton. "Government is a mess," he said, and vowed to repair it.

The Texas billionaire said he was joining the race because "neither political party has effectively addressed" economic and other concerns that are on the minds of the voters. "We gave them a chance; they didn't do it," he said of his rivals.

He made his remarks at a news conference 11 weeks to the day after he announced he would not run. He said at that time he believed he could not win and did not want to be a disruptive influence on the campaign.

He didn't address the likelihood of victory in his announcement speech before family, friends and supporters in his home state of Texas. Instead, he looked beyond the election, pledging to dedicate himself to

the public opinion polls. But his backing dwindled through a series of spring controversies, and his support now runs a distant third to the other candidates.

Even so, his entry, coupled with the prospect of a series of



**"Our people are good; the American people are good, but their government is a mess."**

— Ross Perot

solving the nation's problems and rallying the public to the cause. "Looking forward, working together, we can fix anything," he said.

Perot once had support rivaling that of Bush and Clinton in

October debates, had the effect of injecting uncertainty to a race that Clinton has led consistently since July.

Perot cast his announcement as

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## Independent supporters ready for Texas campaign

By REAGON CLAMON

Reporter of THE BATTALION

Perot supporters in Brazos and surrounding counties are geared up and ready to go following Ross Perot's announcement that he will re-enter the presidential race.

Lou Zaeske, coordinator of the movement in central Texas that helped get Perot on the ballot, said the Perot supporters that had contacted him since the announcement are "enthused and want to know what they can do to help."

Zaeske is the chairman of the Independent Texan Network, a group of volunteers that support independent candidates. He said the network would begin mobilizing soon with the goal of getting as many votes for Perot as possible.

The network will begin a state-wide direct mail campaign to the 150,000 names on its database, Zaeske said. The mail-outs are designed to convince voters that a vote for Perot won't be wasted.

"If somebody votes for principle and conviction, they don't waste their vote no matter how they cast it," Zaeske said. "If we vote for Ross Perot, we'll be sending a very clear message to the two parties."

Zaeske isn't bothered by the possibility of Perot supporters only swaying a close race to one candidate or the other.

"I for one don't care for Bush or Clinton," he said. "It's unbelievable how many people agree that if you add up all the pluses and minuses for Clinton and Bush, you don't come out with a dime's worth of dif-

ference between the two."

Zaeske said he and many supporters felt "betrayed" by Perot's "political blunder" on July 16 - when he withdrew from the race, saying he didn't want to be a "disruptive candidate" - but his reasons for originally supporting Perot haven't changed.

"We want to be disruptive," Zaeske said. "We don't care if it goes to the House of Representatives. Those congressmen are our elected officials and we want to hold their feet to the fire."

Many of the common complaints that supporters had during the petition drive were addressed during Perot's speech on Thursday, Zaeske said. He faxed some of those complaints to Perot's headquarters in Dallas on Wednesday.

The memo stated that Ross Perot should stop saying "if the volunteers want me to run" because his name has already been put on the ballot in all 50 states.

"The operative word should not have been 'if,'" Zaeske said. "The operative word is 'since' they want me to run. The volunteers have already spoken."

According to the memo, Texas law does not allow Perot's name to be removed from the ballot once it's on, so the decision "is already out of Perot's hands."

"Many of us in Texas are going to vote for Ross Perot regardless of what he does," Zaeske said. "We are fed up with the Democratic and Republican blame game . . . we want to shake the bush and see what comes out of it."



DARRIN HILL/The Battalion

Cody Burke (left), a freshman chemistry major from Ft. Worth, and Derek Wood, a freshman ocean engineering major from Southlake, polish up the statue of Lawrence Sullivan Ross outside the Academic Building on Thursday. Wood's dad polished the statue when he was in the Corps of Cadets in 1969, and Wood wants to carry on the family tradition. "It's good bull to do things for the school before a home game because it shows our school spirit to visitors. It shows our respect for tradition."

## Candidates discuss issues via satellite

Aggie Democrats sponsor Clinton, Gore telecast in MSC

By CHERYL HELLER

Reporter of THE BATTALION

More than 90 Texas A&M students gathered in the Memorial Student Center last night to watch Gov. Bill Clinton and Sen. Al Gore discuss issues of the upcoming election during a nationally simulcasted young people's forum.

The program, which was co-hosted by Rock the Vote, a non-partisan organization registering young voters, and "Rockline," a nationally-syndicated FM call-in show, was broadcast to over 150 stations around the country via satellite feed.

"We wanted a chance to bring the candidates to the students and give them a chance to see the issues for themselves," said Patrick Gendron, president of the Aggie Democrats.

Gendron, a junior political science major, believes that students need to get involved with the election regardless of the side they are on.

"It doesn't matter how the stu-

dents are going to vote in the election," Gendron said. "They need to look closely at the issues and learn what's going on."

During the broadcast, Clinton and Gore discussed election issues, including environmental concerns, revitalizing inner cities, rebuilding respect for laws and regulations and creating new high-tech jobs. They also discussed national problems, such as the lack of capital for research and development and the issue of aerospace carriers currently being built in Japan.

"The broadcast was very impromptu," said Greg Denby, a senior civil engineering major. "Clinton and Gore discussed issues that are important to the American people and what the Democratic Party wants for America. They talked to college students and answered questions about what they want to know."

The Aggie Democrats attempted to call in questions during the broadcast but were unable to get through.

"I'm not surprised that we

weren't able to call in," Gendron said. "With about 150 colleges tuning in to the broadcast, there wasn't a good chance that we'd be one of the dozen or so calls that were taken."

After the broadcast, Gendron spoke to the gathered students about the ways they could get involved with the issues, and students were given the opportunity to register to vote.

"I was really pleased with the turnout," Gendron said. "We found out about the broadcast Wednesday afternoon, and I'm amazed at the amount of people we were able to reach in just a day's time. I think this shows how much the students really care about doing something for our country."



Clinton



Gore

## Former A&M boxing adviser awaits trial

University of Nebraska-Lincoln police arrest associate professor on sexual assault charge

By GARY P. CARROLL

City Editor of THE BATTALION

Clifford Walton, a Texas A&M former student and former adviser of the A&M Boxing Club, resigned as associate professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln after being charged with the sexual assault of a member of the UNL boxing club.

Walton, who received his Ph.D. in chemical engineering from Texas A&M in 1987, was arrested in his UNL office on Sept. 22 and arraigned Sept. 30 on charges of third-degree sexual assault.

A member of the UNL boxing club claimed he was sexually assaulted by Walton, who was the boxing club adviser, following a private boxing lesson at Walton's home Sept. 10.

Walton gave the student a boxing lesson, and following the les-

son, asked the student to disrobe so he could weigh him. After the weighing, Walton told the student he was going to massage him, and assured the student it was "a normal thing because of tight muscles," according to reports in the Daily Nebraskan.

The student told his parents and UNL police that after the massage he felt uncomfortable, and that Walton had massaged him "in an inappropriate manner and areas."

UNL police arrested Walton and charged him with third-degree sexual assault. In Nebraska, third-degree sexual assault carries a punishment of up to \$1,000 and one year imprisonment. Walton's court date is scheduled for Oct. 19.

Walton would not answer questions, and his attorney was unavailable for comment.

Walton left the A&M boxing

club in 1987 amid allegations of the same sort.

Jimmy Arca, Class of '87 and former A&M boxing club president, said he asked Walton to resign his position after several boxing club members complained of Walton's behavior.

"I'd heard of (Walton's behavior) before, but I thought it was over with and I wasn't going to have to deal with it," Arca said.

But following a boxing match in early 1987, some boxing club members spoke with Arca and other club members about Walton.

"These guys had a party after Fight Night . . . and they started talking and they said, 'there's some shit goin' on,' (with Walton), and that's when I said it's gonna stop now," Arca said.

Arca called the officers of the boxing club together and told

them he was going to ask Walton to resign his position with the boxing club.

He said Walton told him he would quit on one condition: that if the club needed him back, they would ask him.

"I said fine, but I had no intention of doing that," Arca said. "I would have folded the club up and gotten rid of it as opposed to asking him back."

Arca reported the incident to Paula Opal, sports club director in A&M's Recreational Sports Department.

"She was shocked; she couldn't believe it," Arca said.

"I told her I'd take over in the interim until we could get a replacement, and they ended up asking me to stay."

Opal would not comment on the incident but did say that no formal charges were ever brought

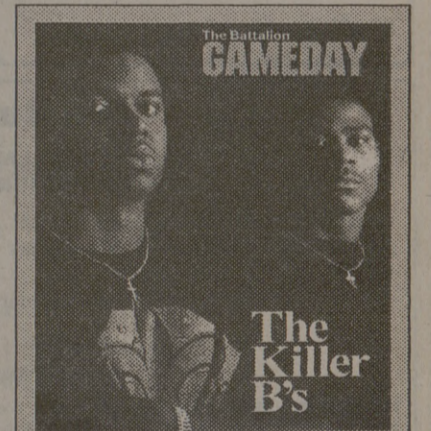
against Walton, and there are no records regarding the incident. She refused to confirm or deny whether she talked with Arca five years ago.

"I'm not going to comment on anything," Opal said. "Any information I would have would be unverifiable because nothing is written down."

Arca claimed Opal called the University of Nebraska in 1987 and told officials there about Walton's activities at A&M.

Opal would not say whether or not she called Nebraska, and reiterated that because officially there was no incidence of any wrongdoing regarding Clifford Walton five years ago, she could not comment.

"I never heard of that (phone call) and I really can't comment on this right now," said Eric Jolly, di-



You Wouldn't Want To Miss It

Look for it Saturday, Oct. 3

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